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# New Hampshire Universal Newborn Hearing Screening Program

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## Why is hearing screening important?

- In New Hampshire, about 30 to 40 babies are born every year with hearing loss.
- Hearing loss is the most common disability present at birth.
- Hearing loss makes it harder for babies to learn to speak and to understand language.
- Language is the key to all learning and begins at birth.

## What services does the Universal Newborn Hearing Screening Program offer?

- The program offers training and support to local hospitals to help them provide hearing screening for every New Hampshire newborn.
- The program tracks the number of infants being screened and how many are hearing impaired.

## How is a baby's hearing checked?

- Special equipment is needed to detect hearing loss in babies. Screening should be offered as soon as possible after birth.
- It's quick, easy, and does not hurt the baby.

## Where can babies be screened?

- Many hospitals in the state offer hearing screening for newborns. Families should talk with their baby's health care provider to make arrangements for a hearing screening.

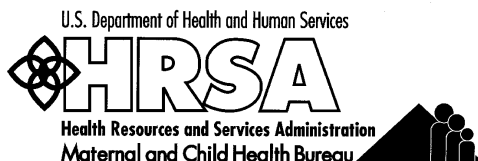
## Which babies need to have their hearing checked?

- All babies should have their hearing checked shortly after birth.
- All babies referred by hearing screening programs should have completed diagnostic (follow-up) testing by 3 months of age.
- All babies with a confirmed hearing loss should receive services from qualified health care and education professionals before 6 months of age.
- Hearing screening should be done any time there is a concern about a child's hearing.

## Where can I get more information?

- To learn more about the Universal Newborn Hearing Screening Program, call:

**Bureau of Maternal and Child Health  
800-852-3345 ext. 1037  
603-271-1037**



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